# News release

## Met Office launches aircraft de-icing forecast service

2 November 2004

The Met Office has launched a unique, tailored de-icing forecast service offering a logistical planning tool for de-icing of aircraft on the ground.

By combining weather forecasts with the characteristics of de-icing fluids, the service warns airlines and airport service providers worldwide when de-icing is required. This helps to minimise aircraft departure delays and the direct costs of de-icing.

The information available for making de-icing decisions has traditionally been poor. Paul Drinkwater, Operations Manager for bmi, one of the airlines participating in service trials, noted that: "At the moment, the time window when de-icing is required is largely an educated guess based on non-specific airport warnings." However, in trials bmi found it has been better able to mitigate the weather using the de-icing forecasts. "The service helped us to plan better and set day-to-day operational priorities," said Jamie Redjeb, Operations Manager for bmi at Heathrow.

Based on the Met Office's unique Site-Specific Forecast Model (SSFM), which uses local orographic and other site-specific information, this new product provides far more detail than a standard Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF). Delivered through the web, the service consists of various components including temperature, weather and rainfall charts, guidance on the risk of icing and holdover times for the following 24-hour period, and also a forecast of the risk of icing for the following five days.

The launch is part of a drive to offer higher value services to the aviation industry. These go beyond simple weather forecasts to value-added information for business decision making such as likely holdover times. The new service is available for airports worldwide providing a quick visual aid for decision-making in the operations room or on the ground. A fully-intervened service by a forecaster is provided for most major airports with a low cost automated option available for others.

For further technical and sales information please contact the commercial aviation manager via our Customer Centre.

Download the de-icing service brochure
(PDF, 178 kb)

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